(b) if so, whether the terms and conditions in this regard have been finalised; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shortage of engineers and aviation specialists in Air Force

†2615. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air Force is facing a shortage of engineers and aviation specialists;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step so far to remove this shortage; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) While there is an overall shortage of engineers and aeronautical engineers in the Indian Air Force, the combat units are being manned almost at 100% level by making some internal adjustments.

Sustained publicity efforts are on to attract talented youth to the IAF. Schools and Colleges are visited regularly to generate interest. A website is also operative on the internet to provide career information.

Secret Message Faxed to V.P. Singh

2616. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Sensitive Defence message lands on V.P. Singh's FAX" published in the 'Times of India' dated the 20th July, 2001;

(b) if so, how a secret message was faxed in such a irresponsible manner and who is responsible for the same;

(c) whether similar secret messages are Faxed to the enemies;

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking immediate action in this regard; and

(e) the action being taken by Government to protect the Nation from such anti-national activities of the employees?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 18 July 2001, a routine query was made by Army Headquarters to a foreign equipment supplier, with office in Delhi, seeking information about certain equipments. This was not a secret message but, an unclassified query involving no breach of security. The recipient of the message faxed the message back to Army Headquarters asking for a repeat of the message as the original fax was not legible. During this fax sent by the supplier, it appears that the telephone lines had a wrong connection and the fax which was correctly received at the Army Headquarters also got transmitted to the fax of Shri V.P. Singh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise in view of the answer at (c) above.

(e) Security measures are in place in Army Headquarters to ensure that national security is not jeopardized.

Setting up of Geo-spatial Technology Institute

2617. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up a Geo-spatial Technology Institute to cater the needs of the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received for setting up of such institute at Hyderabad; and

(d) if so, when such request was received and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The request received in April 2001, has been considered by the Department of Defence R&D and Department of Space, being the concerned Departments. There is no proposal for setting up of such institute.

Performance of Institute of Defence Studies Analyses

2618. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Institute for Dodgy, Stolen Analyses" which appeared in the 'Hindustan